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Assassination Probe to Cast Its Net Widely

John F. Kennedy — Martin Luther King Jr.

Their deaths being re-investigated

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—The newly formed House Committee on Assassinations, investigating the murders of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., will call scores of prominent figures as witnesses including President Ford, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and former Texas Gov. John Connally.

Richard Sprague, who successfully prosecuted United Mine Workers President W.A. (Tony) Boyle for the murder of Jock Yablonski, was named the staff director of the committee. He told reporters yesterday that "nobody's testimony and no documents" are beyond the reach of the committee.

"Sprague's like a bulldog. We're going to turn him loose," said Rep. Thomas Downing (D-Va.), the chairman of the committee. But Downing, who is retiring at the end of the year and will turn over the charimanship to Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), hinted that Sprague could become too aggressive.

Downing conceded, "There may come a time when we'd have to say he had gone too far. He might quit. We hope not."

Sprague, 51, a Philadelphia attorney, said that he was scheduling immediate meetings with Attorney General Edward H. Levi, CIA Director George Bush, and FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley to arrange for their cooperation.

Several members of the committee already have concluded, even before any witnesses have been interviewed, that Kennedy and King, contrary to the official verdict, were killed by conspiracies.

Starting From the Scratch

The Warren Commission, whose members included then Rep. Gerald R. Ford, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy and was not part of a conspiracy. The FBI concluded that James Earl Ray acted alone when he shot down Dr. King in Memphis in 1968.

Sprague said that he was "starting from Ground Zero" and had reached no conclusion. He would give no timetable for completing the investigation.

"We're investigating two murders," Sprague said. "You can't say you'll solve the matter by Friday."